



**American Association
of Homes and Services
for the Aging**

2519 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20008-1520
(202) 783-2242 • FAX (202) 783-2255
www.aahsa.org

July 29, 2004

The Honorable John B. Larson
1005 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Larson:

Thank you for introducing H.R. 4967, the Nursing Home Fire Safety Act. The American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging (AAHSA) strongly supports this legislation.

AAHSA represents more than 5,600 mission-driven, not-for-profit providers of nursing home care and assisted living, affordable senior housing, continuing care retirement communities, and community services. Every day, our members serve more than two million older persons across the country. AAHSA is committed to advancing the vision of healthy, affordable, and ethical aging services for America.

We share your deep concern over the deaths that have occurred in nursing homes without automatic sprinkler systems. Your legislation takes a responsible approach to preventing this kind of tragedy in the future by setting a reasonable timetable for all facilities that participate in Medicare and Medicaid to have sprinkler systems and by providing reimbursement under these programs to cover the substantial cost of installation.

We have asked our members to contact their House legislators to urge cosponsorship of this legislation. Please let us know if there is anything more we can do to encourage its passage by the House.

Sincerely,

William L. Minnix, Jr., D.Min
President and CEO

Advancing the Vision of Healthy, Affordable, Ethical Aging Services for America

WILLIAM T. SMITH, Ph.D.
CHAIR

WILLIAM L. MINNIX, JR., D.MIN.
PRESIDENT AND CEO